





# 1. Executive Summary

Worcestershire County Council's (WCC) ambition is to ensure all learners receive outstanding teaching, learning and skills in high quality safe learning spaces. WCC promotes the interests of young people, working with local communities to stimulate and support a diversity of 16-19 provision that meets local needs. In doing so, the Council aims to provide access and support to ensure participation in good quality education or training, for young people aged 16-19 and up to 25 years of age for those with learning difficulties/disabilities), to meet the economic need of the area and give young people the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Local authorities have broad duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training by a) securing sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young



the number of young people participating in education and training, those who are not participating and those who are NEET or where activity is not known.

The Education and Skills Act 2008 placed two new duties on local authorities with regards to young people aged 16 and 17. These relate to the raising of the participation age (RPA):

A local authority in England must ensure that its functions are exercised (so far as they are capable of being so) to promote the effective participation in education or training of persons belonging to its area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training.

A local authority in England must make arrangements to enable it to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of persons belonging to its area to whom are failing to fulfil the duty to participate in education or training.

As part of the initiative and to support the continued development of young people, from September 2012, all schools including Academies and Free Schools have been under a duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for their pupils in years 9-11 on the full range of post-16 options, including apprenticeships. From September 2013, the careers duty was extended to include Years 8 - 13 with an equivalent requirement applied to students aged 16 - 18 in colleges,





Sixth Form provision is provided in all 6 District Council areas across Worcestershire. These 6 districts are split into 16











## Stay on Rates

The number of pupils in a sixth form varies widely between schools. This is shown in [Table 3](#). Wolverley CE Secondary School has the smallest number on pupils on roll in year 12 with 12 pupils whereas the largest school sixth form, South Bromsgrove High School, has the greatest number on roll in year 12 of 178



#### Table 4 - Year 12 Pupils as a Percentage of the Previous Year 11 Cohort

Over the past 7 years the average stay on rate in year 12 has ranged from 37.3% in 2019 to 45% in 2014, although across Worcestershire numbers varies significantly. In October 2019, analysis of the number of pupils in year 12 in a school sixth form in comparison with





Table 5 - Year 13 Pupils as a Percentage of the Year 11 Cohort from Two Years Preceding

Stay on Rates of Yr13 as a % of the Yr11 cohort 2 years preceding

School Name	2013 % stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	2014 % stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	2015 % stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	2016 % stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	2017 % stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	2018 % stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	2019 % stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous
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### Diagram 3 - Post-16 Stay on Rate Trends between Year 13 and Year 11 Two Years Previous

#### Post-16 Education Provision in Colleges

Although this report focuses on the provision of post-16 places in schools across the County, the provision of places by other post-16 providers has an impact on demand for places in schools. The following summary seeks to set out the current post-16 education provision in Worcestershire outside of schools.

In addition to school sixth form provision, the county is supported with 4 college groups including a sixth form college. Admissions policies into the colleges are dependent on the level of entry to the required course. Historically, colleges have offered a greater breadth and depth of courses catering for a wider range of abilities.

Prior to the Technical and Further Education Act, in 2015, the programme of reform included a sixth









The South Worcestershire Councils consisting of Malvern Hills District Corshir



#### Diagram 4 - Mainstream Secondary School Forecasts 2020-2030



As at the School Census in October 2019, there were 5,556 pupils on roll in year 11 in publicly funded secondary schools in Worcestershire and 2,005 pupils in year 12. This was 4 pupils more than in October 2018 which was the lowest number on roll in year 12 over a seven-year timespan. There were a further 1,763 pupils on roll in year 13 in October 2019. Sixth form pupil numbers were set to be at their lowest in October 2019 across the seven-





Additionally, Worcestershire County Council seeks contributions towards sixth form provision through section 106 planning obligations where there is a demonstrated need to support additional or expanded provision.

## 6. Conclusion

The number of pupils attending school sixth forms has seen a downward trend in recent years. This corresponds with reduced cohort numbers transitioning through secondary schools and increased education, employment and training opportunities, resulting in low growth in school sixth form pupil numbers. Anticipated increases in pupil numbers in years 7-11 are predicted which is set to eliminate surplus places. The more popular school sixth forms are likely to be impacted the most, currently this equates to one third of the secondary schools that offer sixth form provision.

WCC has up to date Post-16 capacity data to which schools operate. As a result, further analysis can be undertaken to assess the availability of places on offer and to ensure that schools can meet the demands from increased pupil numbers in sixth form accommodation at a time when increased growth in mainstream secondary provision will also be moving through the secondary school system. Where schools have indicated they can support a Published Admission Number over and above their Sixth Form capacity and additionally, have safeguarded accommodation for on average 50% of their mainstream Published



that currently have low numbers on roll in their sixth forms to ensure sustainability and retention of those settings to provide young people with the choice of attending local sixth form provision. In addition, for those schools where the transfer rate to sixth form provision is viable but is below the anticipated transfer rate, to explore whether there are any barriers to pupils entering school sixth forms and identifying whether there are the resources to deliver the depth and breadth of qualifications to sustain provision.

As pupil numbers increase, post-16 providers will face a number of new challenges. WCF will work alongside schools and other partners to ensure Worcestershire is well placed to provide a range of qualifications to young people in school settings, for those that require them. WCF will continue to monitor pupil numbers in secondary school sixth forms and will work with schools to identify and support Post 16 growth to meet local need where it is required. It will be more important than ever to understand

